



Robert Walter's Struggle with the UB: the Unknown Story

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Abstract

This paper attempts to show the unknown life story of Robert Walter (1908–1981). Walter was one of the best-known Polish esotericist, and yet the most forgotten, as well as the leader of the Memphis-Misraim Order, who also used the pseudonym “Waltari”. His story remains unknown to this day, including the time of being imprisoned by the Office of Public Security (UB). Based on the documentation kept in the archives of the Institute of National Remembrance (IPN), agential reports indicate he raised interest on two levels: the first was his connections in esoteric and academic circles, and the second – the more important – his acquaintance with Boris Smyslovsky during the years of the occupation.

Keywords: Robert Walter, security services, Memphis-Misraim, esotericism

Słowa kluczowe: Robert Walter, służba bezpieczeństwa, Memphis-Misraim, ezoteryka

Robert Walter, the “Master of Komorów”, as disciples and supporters used to call him, was an outstanding and extraordinary individual. The events of his life would make a fine film script. His biography¹, though already written, is yet to be published and probably never will be. Walter was a teacher to Jerzy Prokopiuk², a friend to Nina Andrycz³, who together with her husband Józef Cyrankiewicz sought his advice, to

¹ I am referring here to the research conducted by Maciej Puczyński and Maksymilian Bojarski, resulting in an unpublished 109-page long biography, completed in 2004 under the title *Walter*. I gained access to this text owing to my acquaintance with Bojarski.

² See: J. Prokopiuk, *Mistrz z Komorowa: Robert Walter* [in:] J. Prokopiuk, *Szkice antropozoficzne*, Białystok 2003, pp. 242–251; *idem*, *Robert Walter – nauczyciel, doradca, uczonek* [in:] *idem*, *Labirynty herezji*, Warszawa 1999, pp. 230–233.

³ She claims in her diaries to have become his disciple. See: N. Andrycz, *Bez początku, bez końca*, Warszawa 2003, p. 91.

Andrzej Wierciński, and to Wojciech Eichelberger, because of whom he briefly got into the mainstream⁴ press.

His story remains unknown to this day, including the time of being imprisoned by the Office of Public Security (UB). Based on the documentation kept in the archives of the Institute of National Remembrance (IPN), I shall attempt in this paper to recreate those events. Naturally, as a researcher of the history of Polish esotericism, I shall do so with regard to his relationship with esoteric orders and freemasonry – institutions which were subject to vast surveillance conducted by the UB and its successor, the Security Service (SB).

Robert Maria Adolf Walter (1908–1981) was born in Lviv three years after his older brother Ryszard, the son of Edmund and Matylda. He inherited his interest in esotericism from his mother, a Medical Academy graduate who was a frequent guest at esoteric lectures and in such circles. According to those close to him, from his childhood years Robert had an extraordinary gift for telling the hidden features of people unknown to him. Even at the age of 16, he led his own group of astrological disciples⁵. At first, he sourced his knowledge of Cabala, magic and alchemy during lectures conducted by the Society of Esoteric Studies⁶ in Warsaw. He was introduced to the anthroposophy of Rudolf Steiner (1861–1925), which guided him as a spiritual path almost to the end of his days (before his death he returned under the wing of the Catholic Church), by his mother's acquaintance, the painter Jadwiga Siedlecka (Wiga), who had met Steiner in person.

The surveillance of Walter began in 1948. Agential reports indicate that he raised interest on two levels: the first was his connections in esoteric and academic circles, and the second – the more important – his acquaintance with Boris Smyslovsky during the years of the occupation. As for the former level, an annalistic sheet made in the form of an excerpt of matters deserving interest before commencing the arrest procedure and, as a consequence, as directions for first interrogations, comprises 83 denunciations of secret co-operators. Issues breached in the denunciations cover Walter's overall life, daily matters (visits paid by his guests), and carefully noted utterances made by him and those who came in contact with him⁷. From 1948 to 1952 (that is, to the moment of his arrest), Walter was surveilled indirectly or directly by six denouncers. Their conspiratorial pseudonyms include "Wanda", "Borowik" and "Popiel". Walter's more important contacts make a study comprising 50 names in

⁴ See: W. Eichelberger, *Horoskop wróżenie z fusów. Zasady gry*, "Wysokie Obcasy" [supplement to:] "Gazeta Wyborcza", no. 176, 29.07.2000, p. 36.

⁵ M. Puczynski, *Walter*, Warszawa 2004, p. 15 [unpublished].

⁶ The Society of Esoteric Studies was registered on 14th January 1924. Its management board comprised W. Kłoczowski (president), S. Trojanowski and B. Filipowski. The concept of the society came from Czesław Czyński, and the society itself was to be an extension of the Martinist Order. The Institute for Hermetic Studies existed under the aegis of the society.

⁷ IPN BU 0 1251/226, pp. 32–39. IPN – The Institute of National Remembrance – Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation, the institution would take control over the archives of the Communist political police which were controlled by the Secret Service. It would also make the documents available to people who were objects of invigilation. Abbreviation used in the text: IPN BU (BU – Biuro Udoświepczania Archiwów – Office for the Preservation and Dissemination of Archival Records).

alphabetical order. This list includes Czesław Białobrzewski (1878–1953), theoretical physicist and astrophysicist; Kazimierz Bassalik (1879–1960), plant physiology professor at the University of Warsaw; Antoni Czubryński (1885–1960), historian of religion; Eugeniusz Geblewicz (1904–1974), psychologist, professor at the University of Łódź and the University of Warsaw; Jadwiga Grabowska (1898–1988), later director of the *Moda Polska* enterprise; Michał Kamieński (1879–1973), astronomer and specialist in celestial mechanics; Tadeusz Tomaszewski (1910–2000), psychologist; and many others⁸. This was a truly impressive group; no wonder then that the people who constituted the intellectual elite of that time, paying visits to one man, were just enough of an incentive for the Office of Public Security – albeit, as I have mentioned, not the only one.

The main reasons for the arrest warrant⁹ signed on 6th May 1952 and presented to the suspect on 10th May 1952 are laid out in the motion for sanctions from 11th April 1952, which says,

Robert Walter – a notable Mason and Occultist, is the social core of various environments, which he affects with an exceptionally hostile reactionary ideology. Walter's influence on academic youth is particularly dangerous. A group of students from the University of Warsaw, the so-called 'personalistic group'¹⁰ (Prokopiuk, Bielicki, Wierciński, Lasota) remains in close contact with Walter. This group is highly affected by Walter, as if he was its idealistic leader. [...] The other reason justifying the necessity for arresting Walter is his contact with a homocratic group. Especially his close relations with the director of the 'Homocratic Centre', Marian Grużewski¹¹ [...] ¹².

The description of the suspect given provides more information:

He has no permanent place of employment, acts as an expert in issues concerning cosmetic chemistry. He has never belonged to any political party or group [...]. According to unverified data, Robert Walter was initiated in masonic practices¹³ in Germany under the guidance of a well-known charlatan, occultist Rudolf Steiner [...] Walter had a relationship with the Baroness of Dangel, whose father (at that time president of one of the Rotary Clubs) was later murdered by Germans¹⁴. It is said that before 1939 Walter was involved in an assassination we are not familiar with, about which the police have never found out (author's emphasis)¹⁵. However, afterwards, the Baroness of Dangel ended her

⁸ IPN BU 0 1251/226, pp. 40–44.

⁹ IPN BU 0 1251/226, p. 25, appendix no. 1.

¹⁰ The so-called "personalistic group" was the subject of a separate investigation. At that time, Jerzy Prokopiuk, who fell into this "chaos", was profoundly affected by his meeting with the Office of Security. The outcome of this repression was his willingness to attempt suicide, which he confessed to Walter; see: J. Prokopiuk, *Szkice antropozoficzne*, Białystok 2003, p. 248.

¹¹ M. Grużewski (1885–1963), esotericist and mediumistic painter; see: A. Mikolejko, *Anthropos w świecie Mariana Grużewskiego*, "Hermaion" 2013, no. 2, pp. 131–140.

¹² IPN BU 0 1251/226, p. 45.

¹³ False information – Walter never met Steiner in person.

¹⁴ Most probably Baron Józef Dangel, the president of a Rotary Club in Warsaw; see bulletin: "The Rotarian", 1932, no. 2, vol. 16, p. 27.

¹⁵ This information appears in several reports of denouncers, albeit always as "anecdotal evidence". Still, it is highly relevant for the murder of Jan Korwin Czarnomski discussed later on.

relationship with Walter and married an engineer named Urbański. [...] His apartment in Komorów constitutes one of the main and more significant centres of various freemasonry schools in Poland. Masonic gatherings of a more or less secret nature take place there constantly. According to the occult terminology, Walter is a metapsychic, anthroposophist, astrologist, cabalist – he has graduated from almost every occult masonic school, including the so-called Indian and Egyptian schools. In masonry he holds the title of the ‘Grand Cophta’ of the Memphis Misraim Rite in Poland [...] ¹⁶.

Having read such a detailed study, one may be surprised by the article under which Walter was arrested. Apart from being a member of an illegal organisation, he was accused of cooperating with the Nazi authorities due to the contacts with the head of intelligence of the Russian Liberation Army (ROA) of that time, the aforementioned Boris Smyslovsky, which Walter maintained in 1940–1944 and which served as the main reason for his arrest.

Boris Smyslovsky

Boris Alexeyevich Smyslovsky-Holmston-Regenau (1897–1988) was a Russian-born imperial officer and a commander of the First Russian National Army during World War II. He graduated from the First Cadet Corps in Moscow, and then the Mikhailov Artillery School in Petersburg. He served in the 3rd Leib-Guard Artillery Brigade. He took part in World War I, and afterwards remained in exile in Poland. During World War II he was a captain of the Abwehr operating under the pseudonym “Colonel von Regenau”, directing the actions of an intelligence agency in Warsaw (Sonderstab R[ussland]), and, moreover, the intelligence staff of a collaborative formation known as the First Russian National Army¹⁷. The aim of this group was to fight the Soviet underground army and to conduct intelligence-subversive operations at the back of the Red Army. In 1943, the Nazis disbanded Sonderstab R and Smyslovsky was taken under house arrest suspected of being a double agent. At the end of 1944, as a result of Germany’s defeats on the front, the unit was recreated and Smyslovsky was released from custody. “A quite sturdy, dark blond-haired man of medium height each morning leaves his apartment to return for dinner and leave again. Sometimes seen being driven in a black Opel. This is how much the AK intelligence has worked out”¹⁸. According to the orders given by the AK leaders, Smyslovsky was to be eliminated on 16th May 1944 by the Żbik platoon. The reconnaissance was uncovered, and as a result shooting broke out. The commander of the platoon, together with his companion, took up the fight to cover the divided group. They both fell. In order to avoid capture, “Żbik” committed suicide with the last bullet he had. For this deed he was awarded the War Order of Virtuti Militari¹⁹. When military operations came to

¹⁶ IPN BU 0 1251/226, pp. 46–49.

¹⁷ L. Hass, *Wolnomularze polscy w kraju i na świecie 1821–1999*, Warszawa 1999, p. 461.

¹⁸ P. Bukalska, S. Aronsen, *Rysiek z Kedywu. Niezwykłe losy Stanisława Aronsona*, Kraków 2009, p. 99.

¹⁹ *Ibidem*, p. 100.

an end, Smyslovsky escaped to Switzerland, where, according to the information of the UB, he became the leader of the “Golden Crown” organisation, which brought together former members of the German intelligence²⁰. In autumn 1947 he went to Argentina together with a group of his former subordinates on the invitation of Juan Perón’s government, and settled in Buenos Aires for some time, from where he sent a postcard to Walter. Since Smyslovsky’s contacts had been blown in an operation code-named “Problem”, the information got to the UB instantly.

The story of this peculiar acquaintance of the leader of German intelligence unit with a mason and an occultist has yet another character.

Jan Korwin Czarnomski

Born in 1912, a historian studying at the Warsaw University, freemason and esotericist. Until the war broke out he lived in Paris, where under the academic supervision of Professor Gaston-Martin (mason, member of the Grand Orient de France) he defended his doctoral thesis titled *Les influences secrètes en Pologne au XVIII siècle*²¹. He was a disciple and an heir of Czesław Czyński²² (1858–1932) in the Martinist Order²³. He sought to become a member in the regular masonry, yet as he was too young at the time his request was refused. His grandfather was a plenipotentiary of the Czartoryski family. Owing to his connection with Ludwika of the house of Kraśniski, wife to Prince Adam Czartoryski, he had ready access to the European aristocracy²⁴. Despite his familial connections, his property had hardly any value. During his travels in Italy he used to send Walter postcards almost every day, and since he almost starved in exile, Walter pursued his debtors in Poland to send the regained amount to the address given.

Czarnomski held many important offices related to the esoteric masonry. He was a legate of the Universal Gnostic Church, the aforementioned Martinist Order (also in Greece and Madagascar) and the founder of the Warsaw lodge of the Illuminati Order. Moreover, he was a member of the world council of the Rosicrucian Order, and on 21st October 1934 he was appointed by the Sovereign Sanctuary of France in Lyon as a representative of the Ancient and Primitive Memphis-Misraim Rite in Poland (90° initiation). In 1935 he received 95°, thereby taking the role of the Grand Master of Lights²⁵. On 26th June 1944 he was shot in his apartment on Okólnik Street.

²⁰ IPN BU 01222/3114, p. 8.

²¹ The biographical note of Jan Czarnomski: S. Kieniewicz, Jan Czarnomski, “Kwartalnik Historyczny” 1946, no. II, pp. 458–459.

²² For more information on Czesław Czyński, see: Z. Łagosz, *Na obrzeżach religii i filozofii: Czesław Czyński*, “Nomos. Kwartalnik Religioznawczy” 2006, no. 53/54, pp. 85–95; *idem*, *Mit polskiego satanizmu. Czesław Czyński – proces którego nie było*, “Hermaion” 2012, no. 1, pp. 186–206.

²³ For more information on the Polish branch of the Martinist Order, see: Z. Łagosz, *Zakon Martynistów w Polsce (geneza, rozwój, upadek)*, “Przegląd Religioznawczy” 2006, no. 3, pp. 141–148.

²⁴ Z. Łagosz, *Polskie wolnomularstwo ezoteryczne na przykładzie Starożytnego i Pierwotnego Rytu Memphis-Misraim* [in:] *Furor Divinus II. Lashtal Press Conference Papers*, Gdynia 2010, p. 118.

²⁵ L. Hass, *Wolnomularze polscy...*, p. 89.

Many issues unresolved to this day are connected to this death, and they shall be discussed later on.

As Chajn notes and is confirmed by the AK intelligence, Czarnomski was desperate for success. His dream was to gain the position of Minister of Foreign Affairs or ambassador of France – he spoke French more fluently than Polish²⁶. Before World War II he inherited a notable fortune from his brother Stanislaw. Thanks to this bequest, his masonic activity gathered steam and the rite he represented became well-known.

A quite tall, slim dark-haired man. Dark complexion, heavy features. Big, dark eyes. Low forehead. His dominant characteristics are pride and the tendency to succeed at all costs, highlighted by poor financial conditions in his childhood and adolescence. [...] A man of his word, punctual. Civic courage and sense of responsibility. A poseur and a snob. [...] Prizes money. Likes trade business and currency trading. [...] Mother: Laura, family name Grabowski (Frankists). His father committed suicide several years before the war. [...] The attitude expressed in Czarnomski's statements and their number suggest that both he and the entire milieu closest to him are connected with the IS (Intelligence Service – author's note). [...] Highly hostile attitude towards Soviet Russia (emphasis by the author). [...] attitude towards Polish military organisations is substantially disparaging. He regards the Delegation (the Government Delegation for Poland – translator's note) as the only official factor, claiming to have been closely linked with it via his men. [...] As for the masons, he is in touch with Wofke, who allegedly maintains radio communication with London: the reports transmitted by Czarnomski's masonic group²⁷.

“Elpher”, “Waltari” and “Hermes”, or the Memphis-Misraim Intelligence Unit

The founding of the Ancient and Primitive Eastern Egyptian Memphis-Misraim Rite is dated to 1881²⁸, when Giuseppe Garibaldi (1807–1882) became the first lifetime Grand Master for the world. The Memphis-Misraim Rite was combined of two rites operating separately at the beginning of their activity, that is the Memphis rite and the Misraim rite. The Egyptian Misraim rite of high (90°) degree began in Italy in 1805 and, owing to three Bederride brothers, it reached France in 1814²⁹. A vital role in the foundation legend of the rite is played by a son of the biblical Ham, Misraim, who discovered the black arts of Osiris and Isis. It associated many Jacobins and anti-clericals, for which it was persecuted by the police³⁰.

Samuel Honis from Cairo and Gabriel-Mathieu Marconis, aka “de Negre”, are considered the protoplasts of the other rite, Memphis. Its first members recruited from the former Napoleonic army and its mystery is the basis for Egyptian philo-

²⁶ L. Chajn, *Polskie wolnomularstwo 1920–1938*, Warszawa 1984, p. 493.

²⁷ The study of Czarnomski was conducted by the AK, IPN BU 0 1251/226, pp. 95–99.

²⁸ The official confluence is dated to 1899.

²⁹ Z. Łagosz, *Polskie wolnomularstwo...*, p. 114.

³⁰ L. Chajn, *Polskie wolnomularstwo...*, p. 491.

sophical initiation. This Gnostic-esoteric order taught about the red and black suns, that is, the twin aspects of Osiris-Ra³¹. The supreme authorities were settled in Egypt, and according to the founders their teachings were considerably close to the Dionysian mysteries.

The two rites were very alike in both their hierarchical and mystery structures. The common elements of Hermeticism, gnosis, Cabala and the Esotericism of freemasonic symbolism have led as a consequence to their fusion.

When reactivating the Martinist Order disunited after the “satanic scandal”³² created by the press, at the same time Czarnomski began forming the foundations for the Memphis-Misraim rite freemasonry, closely related to Martinism. In 1935³³ in Warsaw the Great Mystic Templum was founded, that is the Lodge of the highest degree. In the same year, apparently unfamiliar with Czarnomski’s plans at that time, Robert Walter wrote (with no reply received) to the Grand Loge de France in request for information on the founding of the rite³⁴. In 1937 in Warsaw, a symbolic lodge of the rite named “Piramida Północy w Dolinie Wisły” no. 16 (*La Pyramide du Nord en la Vallée de la Vistule*), and a lodge of higher degrees, the Rosicrucian Chapter named “Pelikan pod Jutrznia Wschodzącą w dolinie Warszawy” no. 36 were installed. At the same time, Czarnomski published several thematic brochures and, interestingly, deliberately inspired media persecutions of the newly established rite in order to provoke a sense of its intensive mobility. In reality, the rite consisted of five to seven individuals. Its core comprised: Jan Korwin Czarnomski, aka “Elpher”, acting as the Grand Master of Lights, i.e. the leader of the organisation; Boris Smyslovsky, aka “Hermes”, the leader of the “Pelikan” chapter and the Grand Restorer of Rites, and Robert Walter, aka “Waltari”, a *Groß-Cophta* and a Secret Advisor. Members: Stanisław Korwin Czarnomski, brother of Jan, and Ryszard Walter, brother of Robert.

Considering Smyslovsky appeared in Poland circa 1935, he instantly had to seek a cover for the intelligence operations he was carrying out. In the archives of IPN we may find a brief description of Smyslovsky:

Ambitious, intelligent, a typical doer. Remorseless. A social climber. Ready to eliminate everyone who stands in his way (emphasis by the author)³⁵. We don’t know the circumstances of how the three – Walter, Smyslovsky and Czarnomski – met. The interrogation of Walter regarding his first meeting with Smyslovsky is completely illegible³⁶. We do find,

³¹ M. Bertiaux, *The Voudon Gnostic Workbook: Expanded Edition*, San Francisco 2007, p. 176.

³² See: Z. Łagosz, *Mit polskiego satanizmu...*, pp. 186–206.

³³ J. Bricaud, *Notes Historiques sur le Rite Ancien et Primitif de Memphis-Misraim*, Lyon 1938, p. 15. According to Bricaud, Mysti Templum emerged in 1936, and Lodges and Chapters in 1937, though *Lotos* (a Polish esoteric periodical) of May 1935 informs that Templum Memphis-Misraim had been created “over the last weeks”.

³⁴ L. Hass, *Zasady w godzinie próby – wolnomularstwo w Europie Środkowo-Wschodniej 1929–1941*, Warszawa 1997, p. 192.

³⁵ IPN BU 01222/3114, p. 23.

³⁶ According to the AK intelligence, Smyslovsky, Czarnomski and Walter knew each other already before 1930 (IPN BU 0 1251/226 p/. 93). During one of the interrogations Walter testified that he had met Czarnomski for the first time around 1931 because of Czarnomski’s interest in astrology (IPN BU 0 1251/226, p. 272).

however, other valuable pieces of information: the date on which he (Smyslovsky – author's note) was accepted into the masonry is unknown. Yet from the beginning he stood out, competing with Czarnomski, his 'Grand Master'. Eventually, according to Czarnomski, at certain moment a vast discrepancy in political guidelines made them decide putting their cards on the table would be 'the shrewdest move'. From that moment on, they are said to have cooperated closely. Czarnomski's statements give one the impression that masonry is here a cover for political-intelligence activities³⁷. In Czarnomski's opinion, Smyslovsky's speciality is masonic intelligence in northern and Germanic countries (emphasis by the author)³⁸.

This "shrewdest move" and "putting cards on the table" were, in my opinion, the answer to the question, "Who do you work for?" Smyslovsky was an agent of the German intelligence, and Czarnomski – probably – of the British intelligence.

Prior to the *Anschluss* Smyslovsky stayed in Vienna, allegedly sent there by Czarnomski to investigate the concept of *Anschluss*. With this goal in mind, he infiltrated the Viennese Illuminati Order and returned to Warsaw with a prepared report..³⁹.

The extraordinary roles of these masons raised the interest (also in Walter) of the AK intelligence during the occupation. A hypothesis I shall present here appears to be quite realistic: Czarnomski might have been killed by Smyslovsky or by his order.

Czarnomski's Murder

He was found on a bed with his hands tied back. His eyes were covered with a cloth band, mouth not gagged. Killed with one shot straight to the mouth. The apartment was searched, silver stolen, his ring, watch, money from his wallet – all taken. Books overturned. Telephone wires cut. Based on the shot in the mouth and the covered eyes the criminal police suspects it was an execution⁴⁰.

The above text is a statement given by one of the witnesses, different to the version of the closest friend to Czarnomski's mother, who was the first to find the body in the apartment.

Found by his mother, neighbour and servant in the evening at 11 o'clock on 26th July. Half-sitting, half-lying on the bed. Arms twisted backwards, as if they had been tied before his death and untied after. Eyes and nose covered with a cloth. Shot with three shots in the back of his

³⁷ Obviously, this is least surprising. The magician and esotericist Aleister Crowley (1875–1947) cooperated with the British intelligence (see: R.B. Spence, *Secret agent 666. Aleister Crowley, British Intelligence and the Occult*, Port Townsend 2008), the founder of the esoteric order Ordo Templi Orientes was a Russian imperial agent (see: F. King, *Szatan i swastyka: okultyzm w partii nazistowskiej*, tłum. J. Moderski, T. Olszewski, Poznań 1996, p. 73), and the Polish esotericist Lech Emfazy Stefański was secretly cooperating with the SB (see: Z. Łagosz, *Ezoterycy na służbie, czyli krótka historia współpracy środowisk okultystycznych ze Służbą Bezpieczeństwa na przykładzie Lecha Emfazego Stefańskiego* [in print]).

³⁸ IPN BU 01222/3114, p. 23.

³⁹ *Ibidem*.

⁴⁰ IPN BU 0 1251/226, p. 101.

head, which blew up one of the eyeballs. Face covered in blood caused by the strikes received. Telephone wire cut. His wallet, ring, watch and case filled with silver, currency and other valuables – robbed⁴¹.

His mother reported two murder hypotheses. According to the first, the crime was in fact a robbery murder committed by currency traders whom her son had done business with. This was a quite plausible version, considering that the money kept in the apartment was gone and, as another witness testified, Czarnomski was to have concluded a considerable financial transaction that very day. According to the second hypothesis, “it was done by occultists, Czarnomski’s friends, who had some underlying reasons to murder him. Cz(arnomski)’s mother believes in this hypothesis and has some arguments to support it, which she wouldn’t disclose”⁴². A version promoted by Robert Walter, who appeared at the mother’s apartment just after the murder took place, has been also recorded. The notation “Mr Walter implies”⁴³ deserves attention, and here his assumptions are given: the murder was committed because of “sexual” reasons (jealousy was said to have come into play) or it was staged as an execution. In his opinion a good friend was the murderer. Why was I intrigued by the notation that Walter was trying to suggest something? Well, such suggestions, or sometimes even “intrusive interjections” showing this murder to have been motivated by jealousy or staged as an execution are apparent in all of Walter’s statements that pertain to this subject (e.g. during his interrogation by the UB). This gives the impression that the interlocutor was promoting a specific thesis on purpose, at times too indelicately.

Why would Walter have concealed the information (assuming he had any) regarding the death of someone well known to him? What would Smyslovsky have gained (assuming this hypothesis) by murdering Czarnomski?

At the time, the AK intelligence defined several possible versions of motives for the murder. These were: the murder could have been committed by a group related to the National Armed Forces aiming to eliminate masonry, or (a more plausible thesis among its authors) elimination of left-wing units called “Judeo-masonic commies”. According to the AK, this group was unconsciously inspired by the Germans (could it be that Smyslovsky was this inspiration?). In the opinion of the AK, this group had been partially investigated by the elimination of Makowiecki’s killers (with whom Czarnomski’s murder was connected). The last hypothesis supposes that Czarnomski was shot unintentionally, mistaken for Prof. Czarnowski⁴⁴. The mistake thesis has been more popular since it was adopted for a study by Ludwik Hass, a Masonry expert, yet it is the least plausible thesis.

The counterintelligence of the AK HQ linked Czarnomski’s murder with the best-known political murder in the time of occupation, namely the antisemitic murders within the Bureau of Information and Propaganda (BIP) of the AK committed on the Makowiecki family and Ludwik Widerszal. The case was dissected by Janusz

⁴¹ *Ibidem*, p. 103.

⁴² *Ibidem*.

⁴³ *Ibidem*.

⁴⁴ IPN BU 0 1251/226, p. 103.

Marszałec⁴⁵, who determined beyond doubt that Czarnomski's murder was not committed by the "Sudeczko" group, which executed the Makowiecki family and Widerszal inspired by Bieńkowski, Niedenthal and Jamontt. "Sudeczko" himself was shot by his men on 5th July 1944 at Powązki Cemetery. Czarnomski died on 26th July 1944. The question put by Marszałec remains reasonable:

Therefore (considering the elimination of 'Sudeczko' – author's note), would Bieńkowski and Jamontt dare to 'hire' new executioners? It seems unlikely that after the quick exposure of 'Sudeczko' case they would have risked again. Still, nothing can be excluded⁴⁶.

There are, however, certain congruencies. Czarnomski knew Widerszal, yet this was most of all due to his historical interests and the search query conducted in the Central Archives of Modern Records, where the latter worked. He also knew well the notable historian M. Handelsman, arrested after the operation in BIP, whose name was entered on the "Jews in BIP" list, and under whose supervision Czarnomski prepared his master's thesis pertaining to Polish freemasonry in the 18th century. However, these acquaintances can be explained by the strictly scientific field they shared. Czarnomski could, of course, have conducted his investigation through his acquaintances, yet according to my information he did not participate in any Polish conspiratorial units, including the AK, to which Czarnomski had a disparaging attitude, as I have already mentioned. As stressed above, the AK counterintelligence also reported that he was exceptionally hostile towards Soviet Russia, and the murders of the Makowiecki family and Widerszal⁴⁷ were intended as a blow to the forthcoming Soviet occupation. In one of his articles Jerzy Makowiecki called for revising views on the attitude to Russia, even at the cost of changing the country's borders.

Could then the "dark character", Boris Smyslovsky, have ordered the killing of Czarnomski, taking the opportunity to lay the blame on the AK environment? There is no evidence to support this statement, and likewise – to support the claim that he was behind the murder. Nevertheless, there are some clues.

Comrade "Maksym" Reports

During Robert Walter's stay in prison a UB confidant was brought to his cell. Denunciations were written, with extraordinary memory of dates and names heard during conversations by Juliusz Wilczur Garzdecki (born 1920). In 1945 the former AK

⁴⁵ See: J. Marszałec, *Morderstwo na Makowieckich i Widerszalu. Stara sprawa, nowe pytania, nowe wątpliwości*, "Zagłada Żydów. Studia i Materiały" 2006, vol. 2, pp. 23–53.

⁴⁶ *Ibidem*, p. 47.

⁴⁷ For more information on the infamous murder, see: K. Moczarski, *Zapiski*, Warszawa 1999. Jerzy Makowiecki was a superior and a friend to Moczarski, for whom solving the case of this murder was a matter of honour. Having concluded that the Sudeczko group was behind it, Moczarski even asked the AK staff if it was possible to kidnap the murderer. He received a negative reply. In the introduction to this publication A.K. Kunert, the compiler, states that the murderers were a far-right mob group under cover in the counterintelligence of the AK HQ, effectively concealing its participation in this operation (see p. 176).

counterintelligence officer provided the Office of Security with the archives of the AK intelligence of his own free will, thus turning in all agents of the AK Second Division known to him. What is more, he worked at office 994/B as an information officer investigating conspiratorial groups with exceptional focus on left-wing organisations. In 1949 he was arrested for anti-communist activity within this very unit. The investigation against him lasted until 1954, when his case was subject to discontinuance. During his stay in prison he was used as a “customs agent”⁴⁸.

The key that unlocked Walter was the information (true, for that matter) given by Garztecki that he was a member of the AK’s Second Division and owing to his activity had now been arrested. The fact is that the years during which Walter was imprisoned were characterised by the most severe Stalinist terror against everyone related to the underground. Such an acquaintance, combined with the belief that every next day might be the last, brings people closer. “Maksym” himself reported that from the time Walter received this information, he “became more exact than before in talking about his connections”⁴⁹. Walter provided Garztecki mainly with information regarding his knowledge of the state of Polish esotericism, which was thorough. In the Memphis-Misraim Rite he had directed he conducted masonic intelligence for Poland.

Garztecki deliberately guided the subject of conversation to his contacts with Smyslovsky, though he did not give his name, since Walter did not tell himself who was the main subject of his interrogation. He only mentioned that the person whom the UB had asked about was “a prominent individual, well-known to the AK”⁵⁰. Apart from esotericism, the main issue Walter touched upon was the British intelligence. He told Garztecki that during the war he had been deeply involved in the operations of the IS carried out in Poland. Garztecki noted in the report that Walter persistently asked about the actions undertaken by the British Intelligence during the occupation. “Walter exhibited particular interest in my story of the Intelligence Service eliminating communists in the occupied Poland. On the next day he went back to this topic twice, asking, ‘Do the Russians know about it?’”⁵¹. As a result of the ongoing acquaintance, Walter opened up a little more. Eventually, he revealed to Garztecki that the main subject of the UB’s interest was his relationship with Smyslovsky. Again he started broaching matters of the British intelligence and Czarnomski.

Walter strongly implied that Czarnomski was his man; he did not, however, specify in which aspect. [...] Czarnomski inherited a considerable fortune [...]. Relations between Walter and Czarnomski loosened up at that time, since Cz(arnomski) began ‘walking on his own’. [...] At Walter’s request Smyslovsky investigated the (Czarnomski’s – author’s note) murder case via his means, and concluded that Piwnicka⁵² (Czarnomski’s fiancée – author’s note) is connected

⁴⁸ IPN BU 00 168 79, vol. 1, p. 15.

⁴⁹ IPN BU 00 168 79, vol. 8, p. 216.

⁵⁰ IPN BU 00 168 79, vol. 8, p. 224.

⁵¹ *Ibidem*, p. 232.

⁵² This sentence concerns Katarzyna (Kate) Piwnicka. According to Czarnomski, she pretended to have fallen for him. Czarnomski asked Smyslovski to check whether she worked for the Gestapo. To Czarnomski’s profound grief Smyslovski learned that she worked for a detective agency, and thus ended his relationship with her. The UB linked Piwnicka with an espionage network, the Regional Delegation

with a conspiratorial organisation. [...] I told Walter then that according to my information from the AK Second Division, Czarnomski had been murdered by Andrzej Sudeczko's group by the order of the Second Division of the National Armed Forces basing on the list of the so-called 'Judeo-commies' within the AK, [...] and that most probably he had been a member of BIP, presumably under the pseudonym of 'Olicki' – Walter replied he had never heard of Czarnomski participating in any conspiratorial organisation, and that he found Czarnomski being a member of BIP unlikely [...] ⁵³.

In conversations concerning techniques of the different intelligence agencies Walter claimed that the French intelligence specialises in operating under the cover of cultural agencies, [...] the Americans prefer religious sects [...], and the British *occult groups* (emphasis by the author). In Walter's opinion a strong top-down link exists between the IS and the centres of occult groups ⁵⁴.

The following information is of the highest importance to this theory:

[Walter] asked me if the Second Division of AK knew that the Intelligence Service have their men in the Gestapo in Warsaw. Upon my positive reply, Walter added as a comment, 'Then the UB know, too'. For the rest of that day W(alter) did not say anything and showed utmost dejection (for the first time since the moment he was arrested) ⁵⁵.

Therefore, it seems that Walter was very afraid that if the UB knew the mole of the British intelligence located in the Warsaw Gestapo, they would use this mole to collect evidence against him. In my opinion all arguments quoted in this text indicate that both Walter and Czarnomski worked for the British intelligence and exchanged information with the German intelligence agent Smyslovsky. No evidence against Walter has been collected to prove his activity, as the big three of the Memphis-Misraim disunited. Czarnomski was murdered and Smyslovsky fled to Argentina. We still do not know who was behind Czarnomski's murder.

"Maksym" was deeply intrigued by the fact that, apart from three single-day states of dejection, Walter did not exhibit any concern over the conducted investigation. Each day Walter performed with great systematicity a number of mental exercises for calmness and inner peace. He also shared techniques for cutting oneself off from the street surveillance with his cellmates (espionage techniques), as well as teaching Garztecki to evoke the phenomenon of exteriorisation (occult techniques). In one of his reports Garztecki strongly states that Walter's course of conduct and his knowledge were identical to that of people he had met before who had cooperated with the British intelligence.

Let us take another of Garztecki's reports as a summary of the case of Czarnomski's murder:

(ODR) "Wiry-Mury" intelligence under the leadership of Wiktor "Korwin" Boczkowski. Czarnomski expressed in society his sorrow at the fact that Piwnicka did not work for I.S., as then he could have told her everything about himself. This was clearly meant to imply his connections with the British intelligence. Piwnicka was not interrogated by the UB due to her mental illness.

⁵³ IPN BU 00 168 79, vol. 8, pp. 241–242.

⁵⁴ IPN BU 00 168 79, vol. 8, p. 244.

⁵⁵ Ibidem, p. 258.

He (Czarnomski – author's note) also sought support in BIP, therefore, in spring 1944 he was even listed in certain sources as a BIP employee. Anyway, he was increasingly inconvenient to Walter and Smyslovsky, defying their control. In June⁵⁶ 1944, just like Handelsman, Krahelska, Makowiecki and others he was murdered allegedly by Andrzej Sudeczko's group⁵⁷.

Obviously, the information presented here is merely circumstantial evidence. However, in further study of Czarnomski's case one cannot ignore the "masonic murder" hypothesis formerly defined and rejected by the researchers (as a conspiracy theory). When taking into account that under the cover of the Memphis-Misriam Rite an intelligence war was taking place, things gain a new meaning.

Robert Walter was interrogated intensively. The investigation lasted from 1954, so he spent two years in arrest. Fortunately, physical violence was not used against him, to his great surprise. Due to the poor diet a number of childhood diseases re-emerged. Thanks to the knowledge of many esoteric techniques he managed to make his heart pace irregular during examinations, which allowed him to gain some breathing space in the prison infirmary to which he was referred. There is no support for the claim that he "limped till the day he died having had his legs broken during the interrogation"⁵⁸. In his childhood years Walter had suffered from Heine-Medin disease, which caused paresis.

During interrogations his behaviour was unobjectionable. One would say he conducted himself like a good person or a spy (I do not know if these two notions could not be equated here in light of the collected data), turning no one in. After all, he had lots of acquaintances, and some of them confided in him over their most personal matters. He always admitted to contacts with his acquaintances, though his testimonies pertained to esotericism or matters of lesser importance. In light of the above, the testimonies of some witnesses against him are egregious.

Juliusz Garztecki left prison sooner than Walter did. He aimed to reactivate the Memphis-Misriam Rite with the use of a false legend. It was said that he claimed Walter assigned him to do so in prison. With this purpose in mind, he even visited Konopacki, at whose place Walter had resided. As a man of exceptional intellect, Walter worked Garztecki out, most probably owing to confessions made in front of him that appeared in the form of questions during interrogations. After Walter's release from prison, Garztecki withdrew from his environment at once.

From 30th October 1954 the prosecutor's office decided to discontinue the proceedings against Walter and to release him from custody. Thus, the information given by Hass, that he was sentenced to death, proved to be false⁵⁹.

However, a sentence (four years) was given to Robert's brother Ryszard. He caused a great deal of trouble for Robert during both the occupation and the investigation. Ryszard was in the AK, and later offered to collaborate with the Gestapo. At the time of occupation he was arrested and imprisoned. Robert turned to Smyslovsky

⁵⁶ False information, as Czarnomski was in fact killed in July.

⁵⁷ IPN BU 00 168 79, vol. 9, p. 62.

⁵⁸ S. Miniewicz, *Robert Walter Mistrz z Komorowa*, <http://wiadomosci.onet.pl/tylko-w-onecie/robert-walter-mistrz-z-komorowa,1,5290565,wiadomosc.html> [accessed: 1.07.2013].

⁵⁹ L. Hass, *Wolnomularze...*, p. 520.

for help in freeing him. Ryszard fled during an attempt undertaken by the AK to rescue other prisoners from the transport. His escape is a highly “blurry” case, and I am not sure whether Smyslovsky did not in fact intervene in it. Ryszard received the death penalty under AK orders, but for unknown reasons this was not carried out. Yet this is a subject for another paper.

Having left prison, Walter remained invigilated during the operation code-named “*Alchemik*” (“the Alchemist”)⁶⁰. Further on, people from the milieu of his acquaintances were interrogated about him and the intelligence operations conducted by secret co-operators.

To finish, I shall present an excerpt from an interrogation of a Walter’s supporter who at the time claimed to be his disciple, Andrzej Wierciński (1930–2003), a prominent anthropologist and an expert in religious studies. Interrogated as a witness on 12th November 1955, he said,

In his conversations with me and others Robert Walter slandered Marxist philosophy, stating that it was based on hatred. Likewise, he had a hostile attitude towards the political system of the People’s Republic of Poland. In the summer of 1954, when in Walter’s garden in Komorów, I saw him sitting with a woman. It was, if I’m not mistaken, a student of English studies at the University of Warsaw. [...] Passing by Walter and that student, unnoticed by the abovementioned, I heard Walter telling his interlocutor he was interested in news concerning manufacturing in Poland and the living conditions of workers. It seems the name ‘Ursus’ came up. [...] I heard Walter suggest that his interlocutor collect information on the moods among academics at the University of Warsaw. Probably, there could have been talk of a reward for the information provided to Walter⁶¹.

As we can see, there were considerably more spies at that time.

⁶⁰ See: K. Kaczmarek, *Działania aparatu represji wobec masonerii w Polsce Ludowej* [in:] *Aparat represji w Polsce Ludowej 1944–1989*, 2004, vol. 1 (1), pp. 186–227.

⁶¹ IPN BU 0 1251/226, pp. 266–267.